

Also this week...



Met investigates Muslim homophobia claims in Tower Hamlets

Tension between Tower Hamlet gay and Muslim communities continues (see 'Speakers' corner', TO 2116) as it has emerged that gay councillor have been subjected to homophobic abuse by support of a Muslim group who were public chamber at a council session on February 23. 'When I stood up to speak, someone in the gallery shouted "poofers" another called out "Mrs Gold Mrs Golds"', Councillor Peter Golds (pictured) told Time Out. 'The abuse has been ongoing myself and other gay councillors for some time now.' His complaint is being investigated by the police. A spokesperson from the Tower Hamlets Mayor's Office said: 'There is no place for hate in Tower Hamlets and we take a zero tolerance approach to homophobia.'

Dale Farm travellers face imminent eviction

The eviction of Europe's largest traveller community from Dale Farm in Essex seems imminent (see our special report, TO 2113), following a meeting this week of Basildon Council to decide the fate of the controversial site. Grattan Puxton, a representative from the Dale Farm Housing Association, says he is expecting to be served a 28-day notice of eviction this week, after which it could occur at any time. Around 100 families will

be relocated from the site, which is on protected green belt land. Meanwhile, hundreds of campaigners have pledged to form a human shield around Dale Farm. 'We are very distressed and frightened about what will happen,' said Caitlin McCarthy, one of the residents. Councillor Tony Ball, the leader of Basildon Council, stated: 'After ten years of illegal development of the green belt, we must draw a line and take action.'



Southwark targets breast cancer

A group raising awareness of breast cancer among black women met with MPs last week to push for a Londonwide take-up of its scheme. The Patient Navigation Programme runs a project in Southwark to promote screening and research into how the disease affects black women, who develop it ten to 20 years younger on average than women of other ethnicities. www.betterdays.uk.com



Camberwell pool saved!

There has been a happy ending for Camberwell Baths, which has reopened as Camberwell Leisure Centre after a £5 million renovation – and years of campaigning to save the venue. Built in 1891, the building had fallen into disrepair and its future looked bleak until Southwark Council stepped in to fund the revamp in 2009. The new centre boasts a 25m swimming pool, a new learner pool, changing areas and a café. A gym and sports hall will be finished later in 2011. www.fusion-lifestyle.com



Olympic Village looks to 'Ulysses' for inspiration

Motivational words from 'Ulysses' have been selected to be inscribed on a wall in the Olympic Village. Sadly not James Joyce's epic in its entirety, but 'Ulysses' the 1833 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson: 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.' The selection panel included the poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, and novelist Sebastian Faulks.

Got a story?

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